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of that period passed in review by one who was not a mere looker-on, but an active and very prominent participant; who knew what he was saying and the men of whom he spoke. Likes as well as dislikes are sometimes at fault, but are permitted as long as the motives are not unworthy. Of this, in the case of Humboldt, no trace can be found.

Impressions gathered in younger days are lasting and render sympathies and antipathies very durable. So the feeling of Humboldt for France and Paris, especially Paris, is marked to the last. While German in spirit and method of thought, he clings to French ideas and recollections with a sentimental tenacity, that is the result of the effusive type of feeling prevalent at the time when his career as explorer began. This effusiveness is equally marked in expressions of attachment and tenderness for his life-long friend. It is noteworthy and characteristic of Humboldt that it was not Arago that sought him but that it was he who, convinced of Arago's ability, made the first advances when the young astronomer was yet hardly known. Arago was seventeen years younger than Humboldt, and only twenty-three when the latter first wrote to him, at the age of forty.

The late Dr. Hamy, the editor, has increased the already great value of the book by his prefatory remarks and especially by the numerous biographical notes. They are, in fact, a brief biographical cyclopedia of such proper names as appear in the correspondence. The book as a whole does honor to the writer of the letters, to the man to whom they are addressed, and to its able and thoroughly informed editor.

AD. F. BANDELIER.

Die Hauptsprachen unserer Zeit. Mit einer Einleitung: "Die wichtigsten Sprachen der Vergangenheit" sowie mit zahlreichen Schrift und Sprachproben und einer Sprachenkarte von Dr. Ludwig Harald Schütz. ix and 226 pp. Ills., map, index. J. St. Goar, Frankfurt am Main. 1910. Mk. 6. 9½ x 6½.

The book contains short characteristics of the linguistic qualities, script, and literature, of the principal languages of the world. After an introductory chapter on the dead languages: Greek, Latin, Hebrew, Phœnician, Egyptian, Assyrian, Sanskrit, and the extinct Indian languages of Mexico, the author takes up the languages which are spoken to-day, in order of the number of people who use them. First, the languages of Eurasia: Chinese, English, Hindustani, German (inclusive of Dutch, Swedish, and Danish); the Slav languages; French, Japanese, Spanish, Malay, Italian, Turkish (including Hungarian), and Portuguese. The fact that the author associates Breton with French and the Basque dialect with Spanish, as well as the entire omission of Icelandic and Lithuanian, proves that his object was not to give a philologically safe division of his subject. African languages are divided into Semitic, Hamitic, Sudanese, Bantu, Hottentot-Bushman, and Hova; American languages into Eskimo and Indian (the latter illustrated by the example of the Dakota idiom) for North America, Nahuatl and Maya languages for Central America, and Tupi and Peruvian (Quichua) for South America. In Australia, several native dialects of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, West Australia and South Australia are briefly described, together with the languages of the Papuans of New Guinea and New Mecklenburg. A chapter on scientific, artistic, and artificial languages completes the array.

In the case of each of these languages, the alphabet, rules for pronunciation, principal characteristics of grammar and syntax, and examples from its litera-

ture are given, the literary examples in the original form, in Latin type, and in a translation.

It goes without saying that it is impossible for a novice to gain an appreciation or even more than a superficial idea of any one language by means of such cursory instruction, while readers acquainted with the respective languages have better resources with which to supplement their knowledge. But the geographer who struggles with the pronunciation of foreign names will find the book quite helpful, because it includes so large a number of idioms. M. K. GENTHE.

OTHER BOOKS RECEIVED

NORTH AMERICA

These notes do not preclude more extended reference later

THE RECORD OF A CITY. A Social Survey of Lowell, Massachusetts. By George F. Kenngott. xiv and 257 pp. Map, ills., index. The Macmillan Co., New York, 1912. \$3. 9 x 6. [An exhaustive study of social conditions in a large manufacturing city. Dealing with the past of Lowell, its present population, the housing of the operatives, health, the standard of living, industrial conditions, social institutions, recreations, etc.]

CANADA. The Golden Land. The Story of Present Day Occupation of the Great West. By Arthur E. Copping. xvi and 263 pp. Ills. Hodder & Stoughton, London. George H. Doran Co., New York. 1911(?). \$1.50. 8 x 5½. [Informing sketches of life, especially on the pioneer farms of the new wheat lands in the western provinces, with chapters on British Columbia and Ontario. Colored illustrations.]

PIONEERS IN CANADA. By Sir Harry Johnston. 328 pp. Maps, ills. Blackie & Son, Ltd., London, 1912. 6s. 8½ x 6. [Graphic descriptions of the work of Cartier, Champlain, Hearne, Mackenzie, and other leading explorers, with much information about the regions explored and the wild life they supported.]

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA

CHILE AND HER PEOPLE OF TO-DAY. An Account of the Customs, Characteristics, Amusements, History and Advancement of the Chileans, and the Development and Resources of Their Country. By Nevin O. Winter. xii and 411 pp. Map, ills., appendices, index. L. C. Page & Co., Boston, 1912. \$3. 8 x 5½.

CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA. Vol II, Central America and West Indies. By A. H. Keane. Edited by Sir Clements Markham. 2nd Edition. Stanford's Compendium of Geography and Travel (New Issue). xxvi and 496 pp. Maps, ills., appendix, index. Edward Stanford, London, 1911. 15s. 8 x 5½. [On the whole, the additions to our information concerning Central America and the West Indies since the first issue in 1902 are recorded, with, however, some mistakes in spelling and some statements now antiquated, carried over from the earlier volume.]

ASIA

THE CIVILIZATION OF CHINA. By Herbert A. Giles. Home University Library. 256 pp. Bibliogr., index. Henry Holt & Co., New York. 1911. 50 cents. 6½ x 4½. [Gives the outline of Chinese civilization from the earliest times to the present period of transition.]

AROUND THE BLACK SEA, Asia Minor, Armenia, Caucasus, Circassia, Daghestan, the Crimea, Roumania. By William Eleroy Curtis. 456 pp. Map, ills., index. George H. Doran Co., New York, 1911. 8½ x 5½.